532

Runkelstein.

implements. Wood-carving is as native to Ladinian Gröden as to the Allemannian Lechtal. Represented by Michael Pacher of Bruneck (d. 1498), Joseph Koch of Lechtal (1768—1839), the Italian-Tyrolese Giovanni Segantini (1858—1899) the East Tyrolese Franz Defregger (1835—1921) and Egger-Lienz (1868—1926), Tyrol has distinguished herself honorably in plastic art.

536 The Tyrolese folk drama is renowned. The theatre, good and bad, false and true to life, plays a large part in the life of the Province. The old Pradler-Bauern-Theater is a joy to the people of Innsbruck, with its plays of chivalry composed of [796] a blend of moving pathos and coarse jokes. The passion plays of Erl and Thiersee keep up the Roman Catholic tradition, while the carnivals, among which the Imster Phantom Carnival is fairly well-known, although not so much so as it deserves, [776] have heathen origins. The customs and legends connected with these are similarly rooted in heathen superstitions, such as the magic of the "Rauhnächte" or the "Expulsion of Winter" or the "Ringing in the Grass". They tell of the "Perchte" (benevolent spirits) and the "Saligen Fräuleins" ("Happy Ladies"), the "Alm Dwarf", the "Venediger Gnome" and the "Ice Mannikin". Mountain and forest, water and air, cattle, trees and bushes—all are full of spirits. To compose and to think, to say and to sing, is all one.

534 Music is cultivated chiefly in the lowlands. From there came the violin maker, Jakob Stainer (d. 1621), the father of the German violin. The harp and trombone, like, of course, the zither, are played at home. In this country of mocking ballads, he earns praise who can devise humorous couplets on the 522 spur of the moment. Ribald practical jokes and dry humour are likewise typical of the Tyrolese. The mountain dweller is apt to ponder more over the next 812 world. Sometimes he developes into a rustic philosopher or scholar in remote districts, such as the map-maker Peter Anich and Blasius Huber from Oberperfuss.